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Sen. Cropsey, Rep. Newell announce AmeriCorps grants

LANSING – Sen. Alan Cropsey, R-DeWitt, and Rep. Gary Newell, R-Saranac, today announced Ionia and nearby counties have received AmeriCorps grants that help protect groundwater, prepare people for disasters and put mentors in local school districts.

“I congratulate the four counties of the 33rd District for winning access to these grants and the organizations that sought them,” Cropsey said. “The grant for Ionia County especially will help schools districts there recruit community volunteers.”

The Ionia County Intermediate School District received a \$153,600 grant that will help increase volunteerism. AmeriCorps members will provide information to school administrators about in-school mentoring programs for students in six school districts.

“This generous grant will enable the educators of Ionia County to instill the importance of community involvement in our young people,” Newell said.

Ionia County residents also will benefit from a \$244,276 grant that benefits the Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program. The program enrolls 20 full-time AmeriCorps members to provide environmental education and outreach. The members teach middle- and high-school students about the water cycle and groundwater protection.

Likewise, the entire 33rd Senate District will be helped by a \$270,400 grant to a regional American Red Cross East Shoreline Chapter, which serves nine local Red Cross chapters. The AmeriCorps members will educate citizens about preparing themselves for disasters and other emergencies. The 33rd District comprises Clinton, Ionia, Isabella and Montcalm counties.

AmeriCorps is a federal program run by the Corporation for National and Community Service. Michigan’s AmeriCorps programs are housed within nonprofit organizations, schools or other agencies. Each program sets its own goals to help meet local needs.

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